

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205958
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
NEA/ARN:NHOWELL
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----093951 150231Z /21

O 160148Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205958

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SY, XF, PPDC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER
TO PRESIDENT ASSAD ASAP. THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO SIGNED
ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WISH TO SHARE
WITH YOU SOME OF MY THOUGHTS ON THE FORTHCOMING MIDDLE
EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.

I KNOW FROM OUR TALKS IN GENEVA OF YOUR OWN DEEP DESIRE
FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT
SYRIA CONTINUES TO ADHERE TO THE RELEVANT SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTIONS CONSTITUTING THE BASIS FOR A NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT AND HAS LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO REJOINING THE
NEGOTIATIONS IF CONDITIONS ACCEPTABLE TO SYRIA ARE MET.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 205958

WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT
SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION
TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO
ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS,

SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THESE PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 205958

AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. AN AGREED FRAMEWORK SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING MIGHT ULTIMATELY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, INCLUDING SYRIA, TO REJOIN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS .

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF THE MIDDLE

EAST NEGOTIATIONS, I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS
FOR TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO
ACCOMPLISH. I AM AWARE OF YOUR CONCERNS BUT I ALSO HOPE
THAT YOU WILL KEEP AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTION
SUCH TALKS MIGHT MAKE. I WOULD WELCOME YOUR OWN THOUGHTS.

WITH MY BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.
CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE205958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780332-1115
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780858/aaaabwoa.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1721646
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT
TAGS: PPDC, PDEV, US, SY, XF
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014